

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action all of the claims were rejected as being anticipated by the newly cited Tamagaki patent. In response, however, each of Applicants' independent claims has been amended in a manner which is believed to provide patentable distinctions over that reference.

In particular, each of the independent claims now requires that the recited image reading apparatus and the control apparatus are detachably connectable to each other through an interface. Further in this regard, looking for example to Claim 56, the control apparatus comprises a memory for storing light source control programs of different modes, and a turn-on control unit for effecting turn-on control of a plurality of light sources included in the image reading apparatus through the interface according to the program read out from the memory. These claimed requirements are disclosed in Fig. 7 of Applicants' drawings and in the Specification text related thereto.

Applicants respectfully submit that these features of the present invention are not disclosed in the cited Tamagaki reference. That is, Tamagaki does not disclose that a control apparatus and an image reading apparatus are detachably connectable to each other through an interface. Nor does Tamagaki disclose that such a control apparatus comprises the memory for storing control programs and the turn-on control unit for effecting control, through the interface, of light sources included in the image reading apparatus, as required by each of the amended independent claims.

For these reasons it is believed that all of the independent claims, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable, wherefore a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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